



CONGRESSMAN

BRAD SHERMAN

YEAR-END REPORT TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY



Congressman
BRAD SHERMAN

Dear Friend:

Every two years, Congress adjourns and a new Congress takes office the following year. All proposed legislation not enacted during the "107th Congress" expires; it can, of course, be reintroduced in the 108th Congress, which starts in January. With the 107th Congress at an end, now is an excellent time to review what Congress has accomplished and what lies ahead for the next two years.

Every ten years after the national census, Congressional Districts are redrawn to reflect population shifts. The new districts, which all have equal population, become effective in January. For some of you, this means that my congressional district will no longer include your home address, and this will be the last mailing you receive from me. Be assured that I will continue to represent about half of the San Fernando Valley, including neighborhoods just a few blocks from your home, and I will continue to work to improve the quality of life in the San Fernando Valley.



Congressman Sherman discusses federal financial aid with students at Cal State Northridge.

Of course, I will also continue to fight for Social Security, Medicare, education, fiscal responsibility, economic expansion, corporate responsibility, campaign finance reform, environmental protection, and a foreign policy that reflects our values. The borders of my district may have changed, but my priorities have not.

I hope that you find this report informative. I encourage you to contact my office with your concerns on these and other issues facing the federal government.

BRAD SHERMAN
Your Congressman

CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN.

Protecting Social Security and Medicare



Social Security.

Social Security and Medicare permit millions of American families to retire with dignity. It has been reported in the

media that the Republican Majority will soon put forward a number of plans to partially *privatize* Social Security. The hidden secret is that these proposals would provide lower benefits, *unless* the beneficiary is willing to select risky investments and happens to select stocks that perform well. These proposals would also divert funding from the system, thus endangering current and future beneficiaries. Sherman will fight against efforts to privatize Social Security, because he believes it would be irresponsible to replace a guarantee with a gamble.

Medicare.

Too many seniors have too much of their savings drained by the need to pay for costly prescription medications. Last July, Congressman Sherman voted against an inadequate plan that would not have provided the coverage that seniors need, and would require participants to buy Medi-gap insurance from private insurance companies. Sherman voted for the stronger plan, which would provide drug coverage as part of Medicare and would pay 80% of participants' drug costs until they reach \$2000, and 100% of costs over \$2000. Congressman Sherman remains committed to providing a prescription drug benefit under Medicare. Sherman also cosponsored the *Emergency Retiree Health Benefits Protection Act* (HR 1322), which prevents employer health plans from making post-retirement reductions in retirees' health benefits. Unfortunately, the Republican Leadership of the House refused to allow a vote on this important bill in 2002; Sherman will fight for similar legislation in 2003.



Improving Education



Improving Primary and Secondary Education.

Congressman Sherman strongly supported the bi-partisan *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA)—the major education bill which was signed into law earlier this year. The bill authorizes about \$8 billion more than in 2001, and \$7 billion more than the President requested.

School Construction. Sherman has also cosponsored the *America's Better Classroom Act* (H.R. 1076), which would help modernize schools by having the federal government pay the interest on school bonds nationwide. This bill would help districts like the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) build and renovate schools by paying the interest on their bonds—including the bonds recently issued by LAUSD. While this bill did not become law, Sherman will continue to fight for passage of similar legislation in 2003.



Making Higher Education More Affordable.

The federal government plays a vital role in ensuring that young people have

the funds they need to pursue higher education. It provides 75 percent of all financial aid to students in this country. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has proposed reducing by 375,000 the number of students receiving financial aid. It has also proposed raising interest rates on existing student loans.

Sherman has countered these plans by working to not only maintain the number of students receiving aid, but also to establish permanent fixed interest rates for student and parent borrowers.

WORKING FOR VALLEY FAMILIES.

Working for a Better Economy



Corporate Responsibility. Just as America began to fight its way out of recession, our economy was rocked by accounting scandals at

some of our largest corporations. This hurt not only investors in the individual companies; it hurt all stock market investors. It also slowed our economy, and contributed to today's 6% unemployment rate. Congress responded by enacting the *Sarbanes-Oxley Corporate and Accounting Transparency and Accountability Act*. While this legislation provided critically needed reforms, Sherman worked for even stronger provisions. He will continue to work for legislation which will provide even more resources for the Securities and Exchange Commission and help investors know which stock market analysts are completely independent.

Economic Stimulus and Tax Fairness.

Today's Republican leadership proposes implementing huge new tax cuts for the wealthiest 1% and for giant international corporations. Sherman proposes keeping our tax law the same for the wealthiest 1%, plugging corporate tax loopholes, and providing tax rebates to working families. Under Sherman's proposal, all taxpayers will retain the benefits of the tax cuts implemented this year, middle class families will receive additional permanent tax reductions, and all taxpayers would receive a \$1,200 per couple tax rebate to jump-start the economy in 2003. Sherman's proposal reduces our deficits by over \$1.3 trillion compared to laws now scheduled to take effect by 2010, and an additional \$2 to \$3 trillion compared to new Republican proposals.



Improving Our Quality of Life



Transportation.

Congressman Sherman continues to work to ensure that California and the Valley get their fair share of federal

funds to address the 101/405 Interchange, the Sepulveda Pass, and other transportation problems facing Valley residents.

Since going to Congress in 1997, Congressman Sherman has worked closely with other Valley leaders to improve the 101/405 Interchange and the Sepulveda Pass. He has worked with others to fund an exclusive lane for a 14-mile bus corridor, known as the East-West Valley Busway, from the North Hollywood Metro Station to Warner Center. The busway should be fully completed by early 2005, thus reducing traffic on the 101 Freeway.

Preserving Open Space and Increasing Recreational

Activities.

The Sepulveda Basin is the most valuable piece of federally owned property in the San Fernando Valley. It provides Valley residents a chance to enjoy nature and activities like fishing,

golf, baseball and soccer. Last year, Sherman obtained \$650,000 to help fund improvements in the Basin.

Congressman Sherman is seeking an additional \$2 million in federal funds to add more than 60 acres of useable park land in the Basin.



Protecting the Environment. Congressman Sherman has opposed offshore drilling along California's coast and has fought for tougher clean air and water standards. Sherman has a 100% lifetime voting record with the Sierra Club.